AGENDA ITEM: System Advisory Board

GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATES:

CURRENT STATUS: The System Advisory Board (SAB) Program continues to make available to Systems a means for directly incorporating citizen advice in planning and delivering System services. A policy adopted by the Board in August 1985 authorized the charging of System administrative indirect costs against the CLSA System Reference, Communications and Delivery and System Advisory Board Program allocations, whereby up to 25% of each service program baseline may be used for Planning, Coordination & Evaluation (PC&E).

As part of an annual event held in conjunction with the November Board meeting, a breakfast honoring all SABs is being held on Tuesday, November 19 at 8:00 a.m. System Advisory Board members have been asked to speak to the Board on their role as advisors during the opening session of the Business meeting. Exhibit A is the invitation mailed to SAB Chairs.

Summary of 2001/02 System Annual Reports

Exhibit B displays a summary of performance objectives adopted for the System Advisory Board programs in the 15 Cooperative Library Systems and the reported levels of achievement. A few System Advisory Boards continue to be hampered in their efforts to develop an active SAB by the slowness of appointments by the governing bodies of member jurisdictions. Many Systems adopted and achieved performance objectives aimed at increasing the exchange of information between the System Administrative Councils, the System Advisory Boards, and the member communities. Among the methods adopted by various Systems for achieving this were: attendance by SAB members at Administrative Council meetings, written SAB reports on System activities and services to appointing bodies, and presentations by SAB members to community groups.

System annual reports also indicate that many SAB members are active in library advocacy through letters, phone calls, personal meetings and breakfast events with local, state and federal elected officials. SAB members are continuing to participate in annual events such as CLA Legislative Day in Sacramento, the annual CLA conference and CALTAC activities.

TRANSITION PROCESS: The Library of California (LoC) Act does not include a regional library network user advisory board similar to the CLSA System Advisory Boards. However, the Act does require that each regional library network Council include a library user from each type of member library and that each regional library network Board of Directors include at least one library user. These library users represent library users in the region and have the same status and voting rights as the library members of the network.

At its August 2002 meeting, the Board took the first step in the transition process by adopting a motion encouraging the Board's Chief Executive Officer to eliminate funding for the System Advisory Board Program if further CLSA budget reductions occur in fiscal year 2003/04.

RELATED ISSUE TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD IN THE FUTURE:

Library of California Board review of the 2001/02 System Annual Reports may suggest areas for Board policy development.

Relevant Committee: Support Services
Staff Liaison: Sandy Habbestad

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